

# Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

Two years ago at one of those nocturnal celebrations where television critics are assembled to drink and view the remains of new Hollywood programs to determine if there is still a breath of life among them, I was ambushed among the potted palms by Harry Harris, the television critic of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

He wanted me to join a group of 14 other ink-stained wretches, who have banded together to honor programs and performers considered outstanding and "to counteract the proliferation of meaningless awards" by making still more in the name of "Critic's Consensus."

My enthusiasm for the opinions of other critics is limited, at most, and my experience as a joiner is even less conspicuous but Harris has fierce black eyes and large heavy eyebrows and he fixed me with a look of such biblical authority that I threw in my lot with the others.

When the recent season came to a close on May 1 we were asked to submit nominations on a widely liberal basis — for programs, networks, sponsors, people, foundations, or whatever might be considered to have made exceptional contributions to TV. After an examination of the clippings and the notches on my gun, I came up with 23 nominations.

THE OTHER DAY the ballots revealed that the 15 critics had nominated — God help us — 214 candidates for excellence. And as everyone knows there isn't THAT much excellence in Paradise. Of these, I eliminated 206 and selected 8. To be a winner, a candidate must have received the approval of two-thirds of the 15 critics, or 10 votes.

One of the most adorable characteristics of television critics is that we seldom if ever agree about anything. This was stunningly demonstrated by the results of the second annual Critics' Consensus which were just revealed. No entry was unanimously approved. Out of the 214 nominations there was the necessary two-thirds agreement on 3 only — and two were on the same show: "A Christmas Memory," "The Glass Menagerie,"

Hal Holbrook's performance in "Mark Twain Tonight," and "Mark Twain Tonight," the program itself.

INASMUCH AS "Mark Twain Tonight" was a one-man show it is inconceivable how anyone in his right mind could vote for BOTH the show AND the performance but that's what happened.

A majority of the critics but less than the required two-thirds, cast nine votes for "The Crucible" and for the performance of Geraldine Page in "A Christmas Memory." Eight votes were cast for "ABC Stage '67" as a series, and for "A Time for Burning" on the excellent series "NET Journal."

Seven votes were given to Fred Friendly for conceiving the idea of a communications satellite whose profits would go to supporting educational television.

SIX VOTES were cast for the National Educational TV net for its experimentation in live interconnections, especially the "State of the Union" speech coverage; also to NET for upgrading programming in general; "NET Journal" as a series; the Ford Foundation for domestic satellite proposals; "The Jackie Gleason Show"; "China, the Roots of Madness"; the performance of George C. Scott in "The Crucible"; Paul Bogart's direction of "Mark Twain Tonight" and "The Final War of Oily Winter"; "The Trap of Solid Gold"; the NET Playhouse production of "An Enemy of the People"; David Susskind for producing "Mark Twain Tonight" and "The Crucible," and Fred Friendly's book that shook up the television industry, "Due to Circumstances Beyond Our Control."

One third of the critics voted to honor "NBC Experiment in Television," an excellent series buried in Sunday's daytime schedule; NET's continuation of the hearings on Vietnam after commercial nets dropped them; the Bell Telephone Company for confining its commercials to the end of the Telephone Hour; "The Investigation"; "Toscanini: Maestro Revisited" on the Bell Hour; writer Truman Capote for "A Christmas Memory" and producer Susskind for "The Glass Menagerie."

## AT LEGION SHOW

# Spills, Thrills On Tap July 4

Thrills, chills and spills will come a mile a minute during the death-defying exploits of the daredevil drivers at the 35th annual American Legion Thrill-O-Rama and Fireworks Spectacular in the Los Angeles Coliseum July 4.

Johnny King, the world's reigning monarch of auto death dodgers, and his troupe of fearless men at the wheel known as "The King's Men" will be featured during 60 crashing, action-packed and nerve-tangling minutes—7:30 to 8:30—at the five-hour Independence Day extravaganza.

One of the daring events will be the famous King dive bomber crash. An auto will be driven at break-neck speed up an elevated ramp, catapulting nearly 100 feet through space before plunging head-long into several cars.

DURING THE slide for life, a stuntman will lower himself from the rear of a speeding vehicle and slide through a pool of flaming high-test gasoline.

drive over him. The lad, called The Prince of Daredevils, bears the entire weight of the lumbering vehicle.

Tickets are \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 12 years and under. Tickets may be purchased at Thrifty Drug Stores, Wallch's Music City, all mutual agencies, Coliseum box office, and American Legion offices at Patriotic Hall.

## Awards for Top Photos Presented

Ten awards for outstanding photography were presented to El Camino College students last weekend during the annual East Los Angeles College Photo Contest.

El Camino winners included Lee Buse, second, scenes; Robert Hutts, honorable mention, scenes; John McKeegan, second, portraits; Don Cash, third, portraits; and Dan Doeppel, honorable mention, portraits.

An honorable mention in sports was won by Ed Schuyler and Ray Deurloo won third place in news. Robert Keitel received third place in animal - nature. Tom Kurch and Robin Roy won second and third place awards in human interest.

More than 40 awards were distributed among the 16 participating schools.



# Spoo Checking

Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic  
By Bill Whitman

## The European Bit

And with the D-Day Anniversary only yesterday it would seem like a good time to be thinking of that European tour. 'Course this's not for EVERYONE. Some of us poor-slobs can't afford the trip (here, for instance!) but there are many who'll be tawarding that way this summer and it's for those fortunate few that Bill Fremont has compiled a list of fine restaurants in Spain from which to choose.

He's listed them alphabetically by town and the name of the spot he recommends in each case with appropriate comments, such as "very good," "inexpensive," "good Paella," "very expensive" and so on.

It's a simple operation to come by one these lists. All you do is drop by The Madrid one nite soon (closed Mondays, remember!) and pick up your list. No, Bill says it isn't necessary that you have dinner... just find your way there.

Naturally Bill has a motive for this service, he figures that by the time you return from Spain and if you didn't already have the foods-of-Spain habit, you would have by the time you got home and might wish to continue and compare his cuisine with the European fare. Pretty good thinking, William!

Wait a minute, now! Don't lose sight of Sam Falla's deal he's got waiting for you at the San Franciscan Restaurant! It's this Sunday, June 11!

As many of you know, the San Franciscan has been the site of "A Little Bit of Hawaii" now for some time on

Sunday nites so Sam decided he'd expand it a bit and go all out with "A Nite In Tahiti."

Here's what you get for a five dollar bill; two drinks, a whole bunch of fine food, (which is always good and if the Dodgers won the day before, Chef Frank's in evening-GREATER form!) and exciting entertainment for the entire evening.

Due to space available, Sam's had to hold the tickets to a limited number but there are still a few "pews" left if you act now. If this thing goes over, Sam'll probably hold them periodically throughout the Summer so let's put it over!

That was a nice Gourmet Dinner that Al Gans presented last Wednesday nite at Fred Rosenberg's The Marquis Restaurant on the Sunset Strip.

This one was of the Italian variety for the most part, starting off with Fantasia et les Connoisseurs which was Hors d'Oeuvres, Antipasto Caldo, Mozzarella, Scampi Mediteranea Cannelloni, then on through the soup course and on down to the

entree which was Filetini de Vitello and wound the whole dinner up with one of the most superb desserts we've yet tasted.

Of course, throughout the entire dinner they kept the wines coming, like Ash Blond Vermont, Green Hungarian, Pinot Chardonnay and rounding out with Sparkling Burgundy.

T'would seem that more



**HARMONIOUS HARMON**... And harmonious it is when sportscaster Tom Harmon visits the International Hotel where he's a frequent diner in the Hunt Room. Mr. Harmon is well remembered as one of football's great All-American halfbacks for Michigan (1939-1940) and as an outstanding combat pilot during World War II. He later starred with the L.A. Rams.

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## KYOTO

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THREE THREES... And that's a winning hand in most any game where the duces aren't wild but in this case it's Clarence and Irene Day (Mr. and Mrs. Overshler) and Sam Falla, discussing the upcoming "A Nite In Tahiti" at Sam's San Franciscan Restaurant.

people showed up than were expected so they ran into a few difficulties regarding service but it wasn't noticeable enough to harm the festivities of the evening.

A truly delightful repast, all in all.

Remember the Half-Way House? Right there at the entrance to the Torrance Airport? Well then it became the El Rancho for a while but now it's back to the Half-Way House again and so it'll remain, if Art Maskrey has anything to say about it. And why shouldn't he! He owns the spot!

They're now open seven days a week, for both luncheon and dinner plus some swingin' entertainment upcoming. A couple of the menu features are the T-Bone combination for \$2.50 and the businessmen's luncheon at 95c per. This'll be a daily special, changed daily and will include soup salad and coffee.

One of the brighter spots due soon at the Half-Way House will be the sparkling entertainment of the Chuck Stevens Trio, a group that is certainly not unknown to the South Bay Area. You'll also remember Chuck as "Paul"

the MC in the Hawaiian Eye TV series, which is just one of his credits. This group's due to open June 22nd. Meanwhile, it's Don Carl and the Dave Lee Trio on the current Friday and Saturday nite stand with "Arturo" and his Magic Guitar every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, while Gene Wright "plays" the cash register nite.

## Moose Lodge Plans Dance

Torrance Lodge 785 of the Loyal Order of Moose will hold a western dinner dance Saturday at the lodge, 1744 Carson St., to raise funds for the lodge's sports club.

A short rib dinner will be served, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dancing to a western band will get under way about 9 p.m.

All members of the lodge and their guests have been invited to attend.



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